



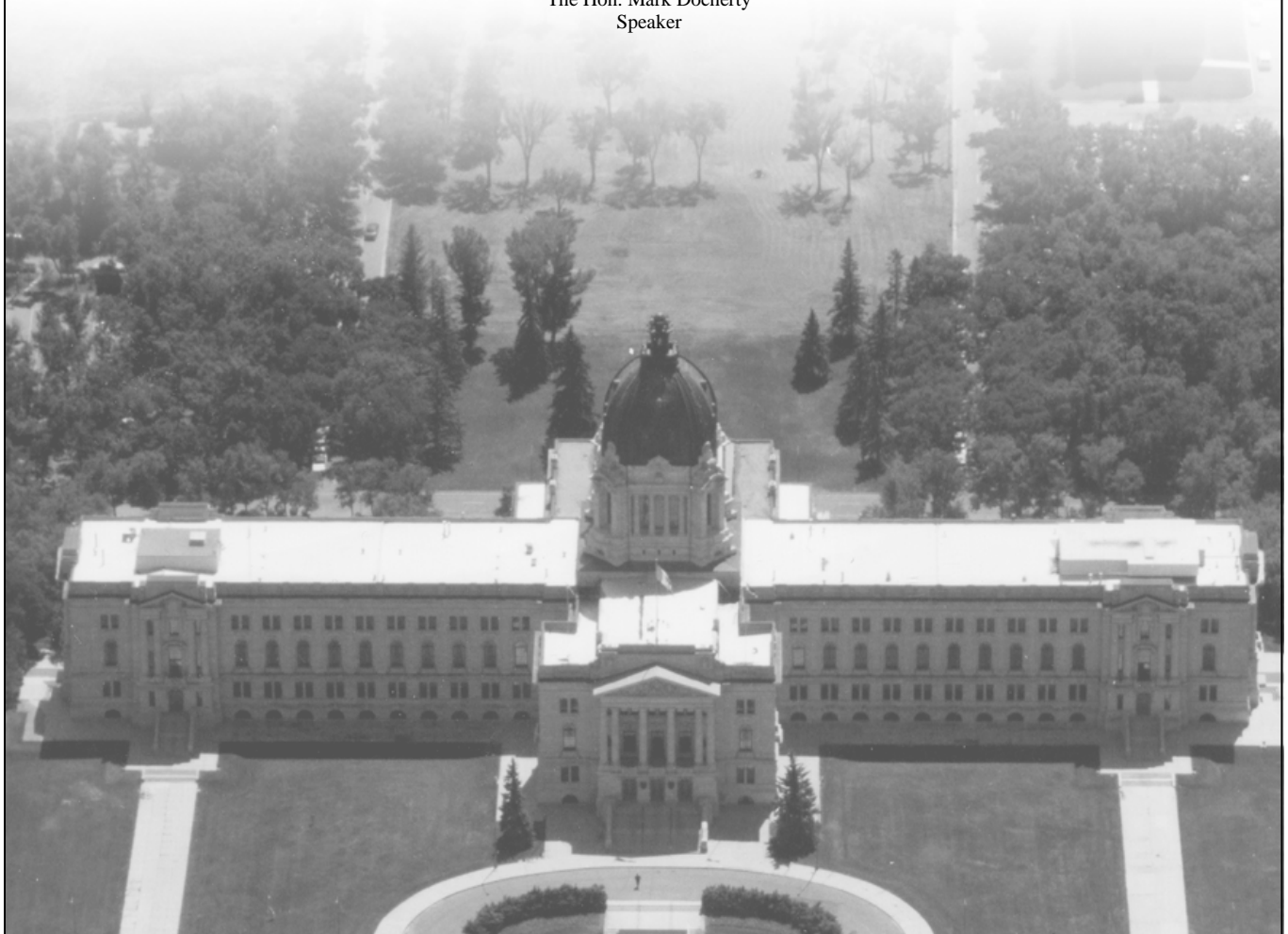
THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)
Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Mark Docherty
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
3rd Session — 28th Legislature

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Leader of the Opposition — Ryan Meili

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Lawrence , Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	

Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 48; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 13

Clerks-at-the-Table

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The Premier has asked leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the members of the House for granting leave. And it's my great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the members of this Assembly someone who is no stranger to many of us in this House, Mr. Speaker, a good friend to all members on the government side of this Assembly. And with us today is Bonnie Krajewski-Riel, the director of the Premier's correspondence unit, or the PCU as we've come to know it. Mr. Speaker, Bonnie has joined us on the last day of a very distinguished career, Mr. Speaker, a career that has spanned some 20 years in public service. And today Bonnie is accompanied by staff members from the PCU unit and her husband, Raymond.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier's correspondence unit is a vitally important communications link in government. The PCU receives a steady stream of letters and emails from across Saskatchewan, Canada, and indeed even from around the world. On average, Mr. Speaker, 15,000 letters and emails come in to the PCU each and every year — busy, no doubt, Mr. Speaker. And whether the correspondence comes from another member of the public or an official from another government or from a head of state, Bonnie and her staff do a tremendous job of ensuring the letters and the emails receive the very promptness of attention that they deserve.

And, Mr. Speaker, Bonnie's attention to detail and her commitment to serving the public are well known within this building and well known within the government generally. And they are very much appreciated by myself and others, Mr. Speaker. Throughout her career, Bonnie has had the opportunity to serve three premiers during her time in government: first, Premier Devine; Premier Wall; and the current fellow, Mr. Speaker. She is the longest-serving director of the PCU unit in the history of the province of Saskatchewan, and she leaves the place in pretty good shape, I would say, for her successor, Kelly Jackson, who will take over tomorrow. And we wish Kelly the very best in her new duties.

Mr. Speaker, I know Bonnie is looking forward to retirement. She plans to continue her daily routine of walking and going to the gym and working in the garden when the weather allows, which it is going to start allowing again here very shortly. Mr.

Speaker, I think Bonnie and her husband, Raymond, are planning to explore the world in the years ahead, and we wish them the very best in their travels, Mr. Speaker.

And I want to take this opportunity to thank Bonnie for her service to the people of Saskatchewan and for her service to me personally. It is appreciated. And I want to ask all members of this House to welcome our guests and thank Bonnie for her service, but welcome our guests to the Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure this afternoon to introduce, up in the east gallery, Amy Nelson.

Amy Nelson is a recording artist from right here in Regina and she's been very successful. Particularly she's just been in Australia, I understand, and she has over there had a couple of singles reach the top 10 on the country music charts over there. And she's recently signed a recording deal — so obviously a very talented artist — and has had some assistance from Creative Saskatchewan to help her record an album, to make a music video, and those sorts of things that musicians do.

With her this afternoon is Jamie Toth from PCS [Parks, Culture and Sport] and Mr. Craig Lederhouse from Creative Saskatchewan.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that all members please join me in congratulating Amy for contributions to our province's musical landscape, her recent commercial success, and wish her all the success and much more in the future, Mr. Speaker. So I'll ask all members help me welcome Amy this afternoon.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the opposition, I too would like to join the minister in welcoming Amy and the folks from Creative Saskatchewan to their legislature, and congratulate Amy on her success. It's a wonderful thing, and you're out and about representing our great province and you're achieving what your heart wants you to do. So thank you so much. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Walsh Acres.

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And to you and through you I'd like to introduce 26 students from George Lee School in the constituency of Regina Walsh Acres. They're accompanied by their teacher, Jennie Davies, and I look forward to meeting with them after question period and answering some very tough questions that they may have for me. So I ask all members to join me in welcoming these students from George Lee School.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a real pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of

the Assembly a group seated in the eastern gallery. I'm speaking of 34 grade 6 and 7 students from Sacred Heart Community School, one of the finest schools in all the land, Mr. Speaker. And certainly good-looking students like that, you'll figure out how that works. They're accompanied by teachers Dan Koskie and Dave Gartner, and it's really good to have them here today at their Legislative Assembly. And we'll look forward to . . .

An Hon. Member: — A trip to Milky Way.

Mr. McCall: — I'm not sure if he's asking for a deal on a log splitter again or what the Minister of Justice is up to, Mr. Speaker, but I know if he wants to do a drop-in, I'm sure the students would welcome him, welcome him on by.

But, Mr. Speaker, at Sacred Heart they have the words of one of the great sayings from the signing of Treaty 6 that was said often by Elder Mike Pinay that education is the new buffalo. Those words are on the wall of Sacred Heart and they take it to heart every day, Mr. Speaker. So it's really great to see these students and these teachers here at their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — I request leave for extended introduction.

The Speaker: — Requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, before I get to my guests, I want to briefly join in the words of the Premier and recognize Bonnie's contributions. I had the privilege to work with Bonnie while she worked in education a number of years ago. And certainly this is a good person and has given a lot to our province, so thank you for that service.

It's a pleasure to see a good friend, Amy Nelson, in the Assembly here today, and a fellow Thom Trojan alumni. She's a remarkable person, a remarkable singer, and it's a pleasure to have her here today, Mr. Speaker.

As well it's good to see Craig Lederhouse here as well.

And before I get to my guests, Mr. Speaker, I want to give a shout-out to my good friend Jennie Davies that's here today with her group from George Lee. Stephanie, my wife, taught at George Lee for many years and is a good friend of Jennie. So I'd ask all the students that Ms. Wotherspoon taught to give us a wave here. And I welcome them here today.

And now I'll get around to my guests, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour, seated in your gallery, to welcome two community leaders to their Assembly. Amanda McConnell, who is the program manager of the Sport Venture library here in Regina, responsible for overseeing things like the outdoor hockey league and the baseball league that's coming around, and Monday night football, all the good that they deliver to so many within the community.

She's joined by Leslie Charlton, Mr. Speaker. Leslie was the owner of Groovy Mama. In fact I think she taught me how to fold a diaper, Mr. Speaker, a number of years ago. And now she's a recreation support worker with Ehrlo Sport Venture.

These are two very good people and a very good organization, Mr. Speaker. We just finished up the Outdoor Hockey League, which had players at seven different sites, Mr. Speaker. And I'm not into bragging, Mr. Speaker, so I won't highlight that the Rosemont Rink won the final tournament out at Pilot Butte, Mr. Speaker. But of course this is an awesome league, Mr. Speaker. I've coached for over 18 years and this year was particularly special because I was able to take William out, Mr. Speaker, as an underage player to practise with the squad. But I ask all members in this Assembly to welcome Leslie and Amanda to their Assembly. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Northeast.

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I'd like to join in the welcome of Ray Riel seated in your gallery. And Ray is a talented adviser to many farm families across the province. He does a lot of work helping farm families manage and plan the succession from one generation to the next and does a lot of good work helping those families. I know they appreciate his assistance. And so I'd like to ask all members to join with me in welcoming Ray to his Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Lumsden-Morse.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to present a petition from citizens who are opposed to the federal government's decision to impose a carbon tax on the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the citizens of Saskatchewan are concerned with the threat to our economy and the unaffordable increases to the cost of living and doing business in the province which will result from the federal government's decision to impose a carbon tax on the province of Saskatchewan. Also, Mr. Speaker, it is now clear that the federal government will be charging GST [goods and services tax] on top of the carbon tax, so now we're paying federal taxes on our federal taxes. Mr. Speaker, this is an ineffective method of combatting emissions and one that's supported by the members opposite.

Mr. Speaker, I'll go to the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the Government of Saskatchewan to take the necessary steps to stop the federal government from imposing a carbon tax on the province.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the citizens of Hepburn and Regina. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of northern Saskatchewan residents: that Highway 102

north of La Ronge is the only access for thousands of residents in northern Saskatchewan. There is a large volume of traffic on this highway that is involved with transporting goods and services including school buses, ambulance, medical vans, and police. This highway currently has huge potholes and ruts that pose a real danger to anyone who dares to travel on them.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call upon the Sask Party government to make the investments and repairs that are needed to ensure public safety on Highway 102 between La Ronge and Sucker River, and to repave the portion of Highway 102 between La Ronge and Sucker River.

It is signed and supported by many people of northern Saskatchewan. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again today to present petitions on behalf of concerned citizens and local businesses and communities all across our province as it relates to the Sask Party government's imposition of the PST [provincial sales tax] onto construction labour and, well, pretty much everything else, Mr. Speaker. And of course this is pretty much the epitome of a job-killing tax, Mr. Speaker.

And in this case the Sask Party government saw a slowing economy and slammed on the brakes, Mr. Speaker, and has hurt an industry and has hurt households across our province. Permits are down across the province. Thousands of Saskatchewan tradespeople have been put out of work. So many of those tradespeople have been forced to leave the province in pursuit of employment, Mr. Speaker. And we're continuing to call on the government to do the right thing and to ensure this exemption is in place on construction, again, to fire up some jobs and get our economy rolling.

[13:45]

The prayer reads as follows:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party government to stop saddling families and businesses with the costs of their mismanagement and immediately reinstate the PST exemption on construction and stop hurting Saskatchewan businesses and families.

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Moose Jaw. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am rising to present a petition on the Regina bypass project. The people who have signed this petition would like to bring to our attention the following: very few details about the Regina bypass project are publicly available despite it being the costliest infrastructure project funded by taxpayers in the province's history. Ministry

officials have identified and documented major deficiencies in the project that were in an email that has yet to be released in full for public review.

In the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, you'll recall the previous minister of Highways referenced one of those major deficiencies, the breach of an aquifer in Wascana Creek. However our current Minister of Highways has repeatedly stated on the record that there are no major deficiencies on this bypass. Saskatchewan people will be paying for this piece of infrastructure for the next 30 years, and in the interest of government transparency these contradictory statements require immediate clarification.

The prayer reads:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party government to immediately release a full unredacted copy of records detailing all minor and major deficiencies identified in the Regina bypass project to date.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing this petition today are from the city of Moose Jaw. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I stand in my place to present a petition for a dialysis unit for northwestern Saskatchewan communities. The northwest Saskatchewan residents living so far from the home units in Saskatoon and satellite units in North Battleford or Prince Albert face a significant financial hardship and burden for out-of-pocket costs for travel and accommodations.

And, Mr. Speaker, there is a regional hospital in La Loche and Ile-a-la-Crosse which is linked to Telehealth Saskatchewan, and through the use of Telehealth video conferencing technology, clients will be able to access a nephrologist without having to make a trip to Saskatoon for all their consultations. Mr. Speaker, the technicians to run the equipment could be trained, creating more work in the area, and nurses from the locality could be trained to run the dialysis unit.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads as follows:

To cause the provincial government to provide public funding to set up a satellite unit in northwestern Saskatchewan to provide hemodialysis treatment that is in closer proximity to patients' homes. This would greatly lessen the burden for out-of-pocket costs for the people from this area who are undergoing kidney dialysis. This will also allow northwestern people with kidney failure to live where they want to live and not have to be forced to move in order to stay alive.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this petition that we've presented day after day from community after community, on this particular page they're primarily from La Loche. And I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for critical supports for survivors of domestic violence. The individuals who have signed this petition today wish to bring to our attention the following: Saskatchewan has the highest rate of domestic violence amongst all of the provinces in Canada, and employees who are survivors of domestic violence should be able to take a leave of absence from their employment without penalty.

Mr. Speaker, this is what we've called for in our private member's bill, which seeks to have five days' paid leave be provided to survivors of domestic violence. This isn't an earth-shattering or groundbreaking thing we're asking for the Sask Party to pass, Mr. Speaker. It actually exists in some form, some form of paid days' leave in many other provinces, including Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, PEI [Prince Edward Island], and New Brunswick.

Mr. Speaker, none of these province's economies have shattered as a result of passing this provision, Mr. Speaker. And I would hope that the Sask Party would look at that and pass this provision in Saskatchewan and do at least as much as we can here to provide supports that are provided in other provinces for survivors of domestic violence, especially considering we have the worst rates in the country.

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Legislative Assembly to pass legislation providing critical support for survivors of domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing the petition today come from Saskatoon. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Northeast.

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition from some of the hundreds of students that gathered on the steps of our legislature here a few weeks ago to demand that this government call for real action to fight climate change. They wish to bring to our attention that Saskatchewan produces the highest greenhouse gas emissions per capita in all of Canada, that the Saskatchewan Party government has failed to tackle climate change or reduce emissions to the province's own targets. They wish to bring to our attention that slashing programs and funding for the environment have set our province on a backwards course, and that there has been a steady increase in payments under the province disaster assistance program.

Mr. Speaker, the students:

Respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan enact a real plan, allocate appropriate funding in the provincial budget to tackle climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, helping families transition to energy-efficient homes, and encourage everyone in the province to take real action to protect the environment.

I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Westview.

World Autism Awareness Day

Mr. Buckingham: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you can see, Mr. Speaker, today we sport blue ribbons as it is World Autism Awareness Day. Thank you to my colleagues on both sides of the House who attended the breakfast this morning in efforts to raise awareness for this important day.

This day gives people the chance to learn more about people living on the autism spectrum. It also allows the autism spectrum disorder community to share its stories and to build understanding and compassion. In Canada, 1 in 66 children and youth are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, and that number continues to grow.

Mr. Speaker, our government is proud of our investment in supports and services for people with autism. In this year's budget, we increased autism individualized funding from 4,000 to 6,000 per child under six. This program gives parents the flexibility to choose supports and services for their children based on their unique individual needs. Also, approximately 12 million in funding is dedicated to autism services and supports each year. This includes 200,000 in new funding for mental health supports for individuals with autism and their families.

Mr. Speaker, these investments allow those with autism spectrum disorder to enjoy equal opportunity and full participation in Saskatchewan communities. Mr. Speaker, I now ask all members to join me in recognizing World Autism Day.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, today is the 12th annual World Autism Awareness Day, which aims to shine a bright light on autism as a global health issue. This campaign unites people across the globe as they celebrate Light It Up Blue in commemoration of world autism awareness.

This day hopes to raise awareness of the autism crisis and to increase world knowledge of autism and impart information about the importance of early diagnosis and early intervention. It is also an opportunity to celebrate the unique talents and skills of persons with autism around the world. Around 400,000 Canadians live with autism. In Saskatchewan, families impacted by this disorder have many important supports in their corner. One of them is the Autism Resource Centre of Regina.

This morning I attended the World Autism Day breakfast, put on by the resource centre, along with a number of my colleagues opposite. It was great to hear more about the services they provide. I also had the opportunity to speak with staff and clients about the benefits Autism Resource Centre provides and the challenges they face.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join with me in expressing our gratitude to those responding to the needs of individuals living with autism spectrum disorder and to the autism organizations

who give voice to millions of individuals worldwide. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Biggar-Sask Valley.

Biggar Museum and Gallery Named Museum of the Year

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Congratulations to the Biggar Museum and Gallery for being named the Museum of the Year by Rivers West District for Sport, Culture and Recreation. This first-class, modern facility is open throughout the year and has one of the best tourism centres in the area.

The museum has a wonderful collection of digital archives, newspaper clippings, school yearbooks, and information on various businesses and people in our history. Mr. Speaker, the museum is really about educating our visitors and our community on our great past. An educational liaison works closely with the schools in the area so students are able to access its archives and to coordinate visits.

The museum also hosts a number of events such as art exhibits, afternoon teas, bake sales, rotating and special exhibits. Just last year they hosted the Canadian National Conservatory of Music Summer Sizzle program, which brought composers and musicians from around the country right to Biggar.

Mr. Speaker, this museum is completely interactive and very deserving of this recognition. I'd like to congratulate the staff, board of directors, and volunteers on earning the title of Museum of the Year, and encourage all members to take the trip to Biggar and experience this incredible museum for themselves. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Outdoor Hockey League Brings Canada's Game to Regina Youth

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the great Canadian tradition of outdoor hockey was very much alive and well here in Regina this past season, including at the Rosemont rink once again. The Outdoor Hockey League, also known as the OHL, was started more than 20 years ago and has been run by Ehrlo Sport Venture for many years. This program ensures that kids from all walks of life have the opportunity to take part in Canada's game by eliminating the barrier of cost.

This was the 18th year for me helping as a coach and volunteer with the OHL, offering so many great memories. More than 320 young people from seven rinks all across our city took part this year. This wouldn't be possible without the impressive leadership of Amanda McConnell, program manager of Ehrlo Sport Venture. I also want to thank Laura Wasylkoski, Leslie Charlton, Tessa Wilson, Brandon Beaudin-Herney, as well as the funders: Jumpstart, Optimist Clubs of Regina, town of Pilot Butte, Co-operators, Extreme Hockey, and KidSport. And importantly, I want to thank the incredible volunteer coaches and shack keepers all across the community, with a special shout-out to the Rosemont ones.

Mr. Speaker, we know what hockey means to this province. It

binds our communities together with pride and makes a difference in the lives of young people. This is on full display in the OHL. I ask all members to join with me in recognizing the OHL, Ehrlo Sport Venture, the staff and funders, the amazing players, the parents, and the dedicated coaches for making this happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Citizenship Ceremony in Moose Jaw

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 19th I, along with the member for Moose Jaw North, had the honour and privilege of attending a Canadian citizenship ceremony in Moose Jaw. Forty-seven people from nine countries took their oaths to become Canadian citizens. Mr. Speaker, it was a great day.

The ceremony opened with Aaron Tootoosis from the Guns of Poundmaker drum group singing a song written by Chief Piapot on the occasion of the signing of Treaty 4. And Ha'Keen Maneso, a grade 11 student from Vanier Collegiate, sang "O Canada" in both official languages.

Throughout the day, stories of prosperity and hope were shared. Each story was unique but the overall message was the same. Everyone was grateful for the great country of Canada and for the ability to now become a Canadian citizen. Alfred Vasallo, who was at the ceremony, shared the first time he arrived in Saskatchewan from the Philippines 11 years ago where he was greeted by a blizzard in November.

Congratulations to everyone who took their oaths and started their new journey as Canadian citizens. It was an honour to be in attendance that day. Thank you for choosing Saskatchewan to establish and plant your roots. We wish you nothing but success and happiness in your futures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

SaskTel Rural Connectivity Plan Continues

Mr. Nerlien: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, rural connectivity is important for safety, security, agriculture, economic growth, and many other opportunities. That's why in December 2017 our government announced a four-phase plan with SaskTel to improve wireless services in rural communities across Saskatchewan.

In 2018 we completed phase 1, a \$4.2 million investment in fusion sites to improve high-speed internet, bringing the total number of fusion towers in our province to 103. Phase 2 of the plan, to deploy 100 new small cell sites in rural communities, is currently under way. And, Mr. Speaker, today I rise to inform the House of great news. As of March 29, 2019, the first 50 towers in phase 2 have been completed on time and on budget.

Mr. Speaker, SaskTel launched the first of the 50 towers in October 2018. With the hard work and dedication of all their staff, they were able to launch 50 towers in about six months. These towers provided 4G and LTE [long-term evolution] services serving the town and immediate surrounding area. With

the installation of these 50 new towers, residents of those communities should experience significantly improved cellular service. Our government continues to remain committed to working with SaskTel to find innovative ways to serve rural Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for The Battlefords.

Community Recovery Team Formed in North Battleford

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on March 22nd, I joined with representatives in the Saskatchewan Health Authority to celebrate the formation of a community recovery team in North Battleford. North Battleford is the latest of eight Saskatchewan communities to launch a team that provides mobile, intensive supports for people with complex mental health challenges. Along with North Battleford, teams are now active in Saskatoon, Weyburn, Moose Jaw, Regina, Yorkton, Swift Current, and Prince Albert.

Mr. Speaker, the 10-person North Battleford team includes an assessor/coordinator team lead, six mental health nurses, one social worker, one continuing care aide, and one addictions counsellor. This crucial group of health care professionals is on the front lines to help people better manage their mental health symptoms and achieve their wellness goals.

Mr. Speaker, our government and the Saskatchewan Health Authority are working together to create a more efficient, responsive, and caring system for people with mental health issues. That's why we have invested more than \$4 million in funding for the eight community recovery teams across Saskatchewan. This funding will strengthen our province's mental health services and supports and will align with recommendations in the mental health and addictions plan.

Mr. Speaker, all individuals in need of mental health services should receive the care they need when and where they need it. Mr. Speaker, these community recovery teams are yet another important step towards a better, more efficient, and more caring health care system for people with complex mental health issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Attendance at Rallies

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the organizers of the rally happening this Thursday have got associations with the yellow vest movement, including speaking at the rebranded yellow vest convoy event in Ottawa. Andrew Scheer also spoke at that event. He's received criticism and, I think, rightly so because he failed to distance himself from the climate change denial, the UN [United Nations] conspiracy theories, etc. that were spoken about at that event.

This Premier is not doing much better, Mr. Speaker. He showed no concern when his cabinet members showed up at rallies here in Saskatchewan despite what the yellow vest movement has

come to represent — the obsession with the UN and with migration, the climate change denial, and the bizarre conspiracy theories. Despite all this, Mr. Speaker, and despite the climate change denial that's comes from organizers of the upcoming event, and despite the connections of those organizers to the yellow vest movement, the Premier said he's still going to this Thursday's rally.

So my question for the Premier today is, when he speaks, when he speaks at that rally will he show leadership? Will he speak out and make a distinction and make it clear that he doesn't agree with the wrong-headed views held and promoted by a small minority of those in attendance?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Now, Mr. Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition wants to know what I am going to say Thursday at that rally, he should attend and listen. He should attend with the people across this province, Mr. Speaker, that are attending this rally. Over 500 trucks, I've been informed, have signed up so far to come to say no to Bill C-48, Mr. Speaker. They've come to say no to Bill C-69, and they have come to say no to a federally imposed carbon tax on the people of the province.

Mr. Speaker, what we saw yesterday in this Assembly was quite frankly some of the ugliest identity politics that I have seen in my elected career, Mr. Speaker. We effectively saw the Leader of the Opposition labelling individuals, hard-working Saskatchewan citizens coming down to this rally, he labelled them as racist, Mr. Speaker. And in fairness, he didn't use that exact word, Mr. Speaker, but he used this word. He used this word, and I quote the Leader of the Opposition, he labelled the people, the hard-working Saskatchewan people attending this rally as anti-Islamic, Mr. Speaker. He labelled them as anti-Semitic, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — [Inaudible interjection] . . . I definitely heard it. You can withdraw and apologize for that. I'll ask the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw and apologize for that remark.

I'll ask the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw and apologize for that remark. Last.

Mr. Meili: — I withdraw the remark, Mr. Speaker, and I apologize.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Is this the way we're going to play? Is this it? Well let's clean it up. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, these are not my words. These are the words of the member, the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker. I will be there Thursday. I'll be there with the people that are attending from across this province to stand with our wealth-generating industries of agriculture, of energy, of mining,

Mr. Speaker, and of manufacturing here in the province, Mr. Speaker. I'll be there, and I'll explain to them why the Leader of the Opposition is not.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, I said nothing against the people of this province. I said nothing against the people attending this rally. It is wrong, it is reckless, and it's irresponsible for the Premier to try to put words in my mouth and lead people to believe that I did. It is the wrong thing to say. It's also incredibly lazy, Mr. Speaker. It's incredibly lazy that this Premier has no curiosity, that he has no interest in finding out who is actually behind events that he's agreed to attend, what the associations are, and what that means for others who might want to attend.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier has a responsibility. The Premier has a responsibility not just to be a political leader but to be a moral leader in this province, Mr. Speaker. It's irresponsible for him to promote a rally without thinking about how its associations and the associations and words of its organizers could reflect badly, because the people who attend deserve better from this Premier, Mr. Speaker. They deserve better. It would be highly irresponsible of him to attend without a plan to address the lingering concerns that his presence and his lack of comment in this House have allowed to fester.

Mr. Speaker, can we have some assurance from this Premier today that he will use his words to set an example? Will he have the courage to challenge the worst views of the yellow vest movement? Will he have the courage to challenge the views on the UN [United Nations] compact on migration, on climate change, at an event that is closely associated with that movement? Will he do it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is simply going to have to attend to find out what we are going to say, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter, speaking of courage to stand up and to speak the position of your party, the position, in our case, of the Government of Saskatchewan . . .

The NDP [New Democratic Party] leader also attended a rally just as recent as yesterday, Mr. Speaker. That rally was about minimum wage, but the person who organized that rally is an outspoken anti-pipeline activist, Mr. Speaker. That same individual is also an outspoken anti-police activist, Mr. Speaker. They have called for not only the police but prisons to be abolished in the province, Mr. Speaker.

By his new-found standards, does this mean that the Leader of the NDP shares both of those positions, Mr. Speaker? By this new-found standard, was his attendance at yesterday's event an endorsement of the organizer's anti-pipeline, anti-police, and anti-prison agenda, Mr. Speaker? Do you endorse these views?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now wait and see just isn't good enough. It's not good enough, especially when the Premier has repeatedly refused . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. And not as soon as I sit down. Order. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Wait and see is not good enough, especially when the people of this province need to know why this Premier has failed to distance himself from the yellow vests and their toxic ideas, in this Assembly. Saskatchewan people who are considering going to this rally deserve to know what they're walking into, and all of us deserve to know what the Premier really believes.

Mr. Speaker, I won't equivocate. I don't agree with the anti-pipeline position or the anti-police position, and I am fine to say that. Why won't this Premier stand up and say what he believes? Equivocated yesterday in his scrum, Mr. Speaker, equivocated in his scrum. Does he believe? So let's find an answer. Does he believe that climate change is the result of human activity and that we need to reduce the burning of fossil fuels here and around the world in order to address this serious issue? Because that's far different than what we've heard from the organizers of this event. Let's have a clear answer. Is it human activity and should we be doing something about it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, all human activities have an impact on our environment here in the province, Mr. Speaker. And it's always incumbent on each and every one of us to do better, Mr. Speaker, by the impact that we have on our soil, the impact we have on our water systems, and the impact, yes, that we have on our climate. And we're working very hard to do that, Mr. Speaker.

And I would say this. There are a number of organizers of this rally that I am attending on Thursday that are farmers in this province, Mr. Speaker. I would put forward they are a part of a production system, a crop production system in Saskatchewan that is among, if not the most sustainable system in the world, actually being carbon neutral here in this province, they are also part of a select group, select industry here in Saskatchewan that is now exporting that innovation and technology around the world so that we are able to address climate change, not just within our Saskatchewan borders, not even just within our Canadian borders, Mr. Speaker. We are now taking the innovation and the technology and the knowledge that we have, Mr. Speaker, in that industry, exporting it around the world to do right by all of the people in this world, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

United Nations Compact on Migration

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, that's a point on which we agree. The farmers, the agricultural producers of this province have an impressive contribution to the sequestration of carbon. And it's not recognized in the carbon tax that was put in place yesterday, a carbon tax that didn't recognize farmers well enough because this Premier failed to negotiate a better deal.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's a question that the Premier has repeatedly refused to take a position on. The Premier has

repeatedly refused to give us a clear . . .

The Speaker: — Please address the Chair.

Mr. Meili: — The Premier has repeatedly refused to take a position on the UN compact on migration. This has been a central pillar, a central pillar of the yellow vest movement, Mr. Speaker, a central pillar. Their protest to this document and its connection to so-called globalism from the yellow vest, does the Premier understand? Does he understand that this is a benign and positive document which is about treating migrants, immigrants, and refugees with respect? And will he tomorrow stand up and make it clear that international co-operation in favour of migrants is a source of strength, of economic and social strength in Saskatchewan, not a threat to our sovereignty?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, there is no place in the UN compact for any subnational government, including the province of Saskatchewan, to take a position on, Mr. Speaker.

What we have done is led by our actions, Mr. Speaker. I've said this time and time again on the floor of this Assembly, time and time again in the rotunda, and when asked, Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan. We have a proud history of attracting 165,000 people to our communities, 108,000 of them from countries all around the world, Mr. Speaker, making their home in over 320 communities in our great province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, we picked a lane when it came to immigration and supporting that immigration in our province, Mr. Speaker.

The Leader of the Opposition has picked a lane when it comes to Justin Trudeau's imposed carbon tax on Saskatchewan families. He said most recently, on February the 12th of this year, "We think a price on pollution is a reasonable thing." We disagree with that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask him to also pick a lane with regards to statements he made yesterday about my attendance at a rally supporting Saskatchewan people on Thursday of this week, Mr. Speaker, a statement, and I quote, "anti-Islamic, anti-Semitic, and anti-immigrant," Mr. Speaker, with my attendance at that rally. Does he stand by those statements, Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, as the Premier well knows, those statements were about the worst elements of the yellow vest movement, and I absolutely stand by the fact that we've seen that from yellow vest. And his attendance at events organized by yellow vest sends the wrong message. We've made that very clear, Mr. Speaker.

[14:15]

But the question was not about that. We are a province here that often has things to say about our federal decisions and about international decisions, as we should because it affects us here. But this Premier has failed over and over and over again to tell us how he believes, what he believes about the UN compact on migration. It's a yes-or-no question. If you won't tell us here today, will he at least tell those in attendance at the rally on

Thursday?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, we take a position on decisions that happen outside of the province of Saskatchewan that affect our communities and affect the people here in the province, Mr. Speaker. And we have taken a position by supporting our 108,000 people that have moved here from around the world, Mr. Speaker, to make their home in Saskatchewan. And we have more to do. That's just a start, Mr. Speaker, and we're just setting pace with 11,000 more people coming to this province recently.

We do have a position when it comes to Bill C-48, Mr. Speaker, something that greatly affects the economy here in the province. We do have a position when it comes to Bill C-69, Mr. Speaker, a federal bill, a federal headwind really to the economy here in the province. And we do have a position, a very different position than the members opposite, when it comes to a federally imposed carbon tax on the families in this province, Mr. Speaker.

We most certainly will be over at the Queensbury Convention Centre on Thursday to voice our position on these topics and others, Mr. Speaker. And I'll be sure to let all of the attendants know there why the Leader of the Opposition isn't attending.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Minimum Wage in Saskatchewan

Mr. McCall: — Yes indeed, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Minister of Labour laboured mightily to defend his government's broken minimum wage formula, a formula that's not getting the job done for working men and women in Saskatchewan. Nowhere is that more clear than when you look at how Saskatchewan stacked up against other provinces when that government came into power. In the fall of 2007 Saskatchewan was top of the pack, basically tied for highest minimum wage in the country. We were leaders and now we're laggards, dead last in the nation of Canada. And when you look at the growth in the minimum wage, it's been slower in Saskatchewan than anywhere else.

When will the minister stop defending his broken formula and work to bring in a decent minimum wage for working people in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the member opposite wants to know about the men and women in this province, I'd urge him to go to a rally later this week and learn a little bit more about what the working men and women of this province feel, what the pipeline policy of the federal government is doing, what the carbon tax is doing, and then have some sympathy for them on this.

Mr. Speaker, in 2012 the NDP conducted a labour consultation. And you know what that consultation led to? It agreed to a conclusion that we should index the minimum wage. And I want to quote their recommendation. It said, "The Sask Party government should index the minimum wage to take the politics

out of regular increases in minimum wage.” That was the position they took at that point in time.

And, Mr. Speaker, we agreed with that. That was something we implemented. That was something that we’ve done, and that’s something that has worked and given transparency and openness and accountability to what’s taken place in our province and in our government, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the things that the members opposite could do and should do are to take a look around at some of the other taxes that they’ve proposed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, the minister tried some of the same tricks yesterday in the Assembly. I think it was hiding behind bogus numbers on take-home pay yesterday.

But here’s the straight goods. Saskatchewan minimum wage earners are in the bottom half of Canadians when it comes to take-home pay. Most other provinces leave minimum wage workers with more take-home pay because — get this, Mr. Speaker — they have a higher minimum wage. And that doesn’t even take into account the Sask Party’s PST tax grab that hits lower income families the hardest. So we’ll take no lectures from that government on their minimum wage formula for failing working people.

Will that minister get with the 21st century and support what is really needed to put workers first, not dead last, and do what is needed to really fire up our economy — bring in a \$15-an-hour minimum wage?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the members opposite talk about not wanting to take any lessons from us. Mr. Speaker, the members ought to do nothing different than look back at what their own record is and what happened when they were in government, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, a person earning minimum wage today in Saskatchewan earns about \$6,000 a year more than they did in 2007 under the NDP. Today in Saskatchewan, even with \$6,000 a year more in income, the same minimum wage earner actually pays about \$200 less per year in provincial income tax. Once again the NDP’s record speaks for itself and, Mr. Speaker, it speaks rather loudly.

Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite want to do something productive, if they want to do something beneficial, they should stand up and they should oppose the carbon tax and the effect that the carbon tax will have on all families in our province. The University of Regina report said the federal carbon tax would mean a \$16 billion hit to our GDP [gross domestic product] by the year 2030. Mr. Speaker, the NDP can do a better job than what they’ve been doing so far.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

Supports For Autistic Children

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, as all members are aware, today is World Autism Awareness Day. In the spring 2016 election, the Sask Party government promised to provide individualized funding. Unfortunately for children and families, this promise was soon broken after they were elected. It took pressure from families to force the Sask Party government to finally honour their commitment.

This delay created a serious gap for families to seek individualized supports and assessments, and many families who have children over the age of six are left to fend for themselves. Does the minister believe that the challenges faced by families with children who have autism stop when they turn seven years old?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There’s a number of points that the member made obviously I don’t agree with, Mr. Speaker. We’re moving forward with honouring our election commitments.

Mr. Speaker, the whole point when we announced in an election platform that we would move to individualized funding for autism is that at age six — we need to start somewhere, Mr. Speaker — at age six some supports are available in the school system. Mr. Speaker, we’ve initiated the individualized funding. We’ve increased it from 4,000 to \$6,000 with this budget, Mr. Speaker. We’ve taken other action on autism funding.

Mr. Speaker, there’s a quote from the Resource Centre executive director, Keely Wight, who says:

The Autism Resource Centre is very grateful to the Saskatchewan government for recognizing the unique mental health needs of people with autism. It is a progressive step for Saskatchewan to include autism in the conversation about mental health, and we are now able to provide this much-needed service to those with autism and their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, we know there’s more work to do. We’re going to continue with it.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It shouldn’t take two years to honour an election commitment. Mr. Speaker, we support the government finally keeping their word, but families are saying there’s not much help for kids in grade school and beyond. And some of those families are here with us today watching, so I’d ask the members to pay them some respect.

This morning Erin Nystrom told CJME that “It’s wonderful that they give the funding for the kids, especially under six, but for the kids that are over six it’s not fantastic. We could really use some funding as well.”

Mr. Speaker, Erin’s two children are both on the autism spectrum, but both are too old to benefit from the government’s

funding. On budget day when asked why the funding stops at age six, government representatives said, after six the school system can take over supports. Does the minister really think it's the job of an already underfunded education system to pick up the slack for the health system?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, there are some supports. Could we do better? Obviously we can. Part of the platform was to continue funding and to continue expanding the supports, Mr. Speaker.

The member opposite obviously is going to criticize, as the NDP will, but let's hear what the Autism Services of Saskatchewan executive director, Lynn Latta, said, Mr. Speaker. She said:

This funding comes at a critical juncture as the need is great and the issues are complex. As mental health services expand in our province, the need for an autism-specific lens is crucial. We're excited to be working with the Autism . . . Centre of Regina.

And she goes on, Mr. Speaker. That's the funding for the two centres, both Saskatoon and Regina. Mr. Speaker, we will continue to expand.

But, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is right. The people in this province that are affected by loved ones with autism do need to know the record, Mr. Speaker, and it's simply this. The record of this government right now, with the budget improvements this year, there's over \$12 million going towards autism support. Mr. Speaker, when the NDP were in government it was \$500,000.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the minister didn't touch the question, I'll ask it again. The education system is already underfunded. Is it the job of the underfunded education system to pick up the slack for the health system?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Health has so eloquently pointed out, there's over \$12 million in this year's budget to fund autism services and supports, Mr. Speaker.

In the K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] system, Mr. Speaker, we provide over \$285 million in supports for learning, Mr. Speaker. Those funds are provided to the school divisions unconditionally to provide a wide range of supports, not just for kids with autism, Mr. Speaker, but other children with intensive needs. In addition, 170 spaces were created this year for preschoolers with intensive needs, including those with autism, Mr. Speaker.

As the Minister of Health has said, there's more work to do here, Mr. Speaker. But certainly we recognize the importance of ensuring that we continue to work to develop formulas, Mr. Speaker, to continue to support families and children who are in need of our support.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Report on Village of Pinehouse

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, last year New Democrats raised a concern over the government's handling of issues coming from Pinehouse. The Sask Party government and multiple ministers have known about these concerns for years and it's time . . . It's fine for the government to finally recognize they need to act, but these concerns have been known for a long time. Perhaps if the Finance minister had acted back in 2016, like she said she would in a letter responding to citizens raising concerns, things may have not become so dire in Pinehouse.

The initial findings of the government's investigation shouldn't be kept under wraps; they should be made public for everyone to see. To the minister: in light of the serious concerns raised about Pinehouse, will he today release the inspection report so people can know the full scope of the concerns? Will he release that inspection report today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I know the Minister of Government Relations spoke to this matter in the Assembly yesterday, to the consternation of the member for Nutana. But I would like to point out something that was raised by the member for Nutana, who we well know when she brings information into the House has a history of bringing information that's less than accurate, shall we say, Mr. Speaker.

With regard to Pinehouse Lake, she brought information into this Assembly a couple of weeks ago in which she quoted from a letter and said when the Minister of Finance was minister of Government Relations, had promised to personally meet with the village of Pinehouse. Mr. Speaker, we've had an opportunity to look at that letter, and it's been completely misquoted and completed misrepresented by the member for Nutana. In the letter, the minister actually promised to have her officials meet with Pinehouse, and there have been several meetings between Government Relations officials and Pinehouse since then, Mr. Speaker . . .

The Speaker: — Time for question period is over. Why is the Opposition House Leader on her feet?

Ms. Sarauer: — To make a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — What's your point of order?

POINT OF ORDER

Ms. Sarauer: — In the last response, the Minister for Immigration, who was speaking on behalf of the Minister for Government Relations, just used the word "misrepresented," which is, as we all know, unparliamentary. I ask the Speaker to ask the minister to apologize and withdraw.

The Speaker: — Why is the Government House Leader on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — To respond to a point of order.

The Speaker: — Okay, respond.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I listened to debate. That word, I would ask you to review *Hansard*. And I would say that there was a debate going on, an exchange that happens in here every day, and nothing that was said to be, to be apologized or withdrawn.

The Speaker: — Misrepresented based on intent to cause disorder. You could just withdraw. I'd ask the minister to withdraw the remark.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I withdraw and apologize.

[14:30]

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 155, *The Legislation Act*, a bilingual bill, with amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill, and that the bill and its amendments be now read the third time.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order, please. Minister, would you repeat your last statement please for me?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill, and that the bill and its amendments be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister's requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 155, and that the bill and its amendments be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — When shall the amendments be read a first time? I recognize the minister.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

Bill No. 155 — *The Legislation Act/Loi sur la législation*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I move that the amendments be now read a first and second time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that the amendments be now read a first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First and second reading of the amendments.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 155 — *The Legislation Act/Loi sur la législation*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 155 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 156, *The Legislation Act Consequential Amendments Act, 2018* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and the bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 156 and the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 156 — *The Legislation Act Consequential Amendments Act, 2018*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It's been moved by the minister that Bill No. 156 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 159, *The Securities Amendment Act, 2018* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and the bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 159 and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 159 — *The Securities Amendment Act, 2018*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It's been moved by the minister that Bill No. 159 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 163, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2018* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and the bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 163 and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 163 — *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2018*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — Moved by the minister that Bill No. 163 be now read the third time and passed under its title.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental
Affairs and Justice**

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 164, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2018 (No. 3)* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills?

I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and the bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 164 and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 164 — *The Statute Law Amendment
Act, 2018 (No. 3)***

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — Moved by the minister that Bill No. 164 be now read the third time and passed under its title.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 138

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Kaeding that **Bill No. 138 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Government Relations — Enforcement Measures) Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to Bill No. 138, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Government Relations — Enforcement Measures) Amendment Act, 2018*, I've already spoken to this bill in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker. I believe we're going to be dealing with it in committee, I believe possibly here tonight, Mr. Speaker, so I'll reserve comment and questions until that point.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 138 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill No. 138, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Government Relations — Enforcement Measures) Amendment Act, 2018* be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Bill No. 141

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 141 — *The Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol (Clare's Law) Act*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to rise and enter in the debate around Bill No. 141, which is a really important bill, *An Act respecting the Disclosure of Certain Information in accordance with an Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol Act*, or as its short title is known as Clare's Law, Mr. Speaker.

A lot of my colleagues have already had the opportunity to speak about this bill. I'm going to make a few short points, and I'm really looking forward to having a discussion at committee because most of this bill, the meat and potatoes of this bill, is still left to be determined and will still be made out in the regulations,

Mr. Speaker.

So the how this is going to work and who this is going to apply to and what sort of information will be disclosable is all still to be determined. I understand there's some work happening with different stakeholders behind the scenes, Mr. Speaker, so I'm going to be asking questions about who is at that table. I think it's important that there be actual survivors at that table, Mr. Speaker, who can speak to their own lived experience.

But what I will say is, as we know, this is legislation that originally sprung out of the UK [United Kingdom] and is now being implemented in Saskatchewan. The hope is that it will save lives, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately it will not help those who are already in abusive situations, who are already trying to leave an abuser. But the hope is that it will prevent someone from entering into a relationship that is difficult for them to escape, Mr. Speaker. And if it helps one life then I think that's quite important.

And that's something that we've been stressing on this side of the House and working, when we can, with the government side to ensure that we are providing all of the supports we can legislatively to help survivors of domestic violence. As I've said too many times in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has the highest rates of domestic violence amongst all of the provinces in Canada, and our rates are exponentially higher than the national average, Mr. Speaker.

So there's a lot we should be doing in terms of looking at legislative solutions, legislative ways we can address this challenge. Of course we can't, as a body of legislators, eliminate the societal reasons behind our astronomically high rates, Mr. Speaker, but we do have an obligation and a duty as legislators to ensure that there are supports available for those who are experiencing domestic violence in our community.

I think this is a personal issue for many. Because our rates are so high, it's fair to say there's no one in this province who hasn't been affected in some way by domestic violence, Mr. Speaker. So I'd like to say that this is a step in the right direction, but by no means can we be waving a "mission accomplished" banner or anything like that.

I will say that there are other provisions before us that we can also look toward implementing in addition with this. Five days' paid leave is another one of them, Mr. Speaker, our private member's bill. But I'm looking forward to having more discussion with officials about this important piece of legislation, so to facilitate that I am prepared to allow this bill to move on to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 141 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be

committed? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill 141, *The Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol (Clare's Law) Act* be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Bill No. 152

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 152 — *The Builders' Lien (Prompt Payment) Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I enter into discussion this afternoon with respect to Bill No. 152, the builders' lien amendment Act, 2018, also known as prompt payment legislation, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly prompt payment and the principle of it and payment certainty is something we support. It's important that we get this right. We've urged action and supported action on this front for some time.

I want to certainly recognize the efforts of the Saskatchewan Construction Association, folks like the general contractors, and many more throughout the province who have been involved in the push for this bill, Mr. Speaker. Certainly they're recognizing how important both prompt payment and payment certainty are to those involved in construction, Mr. Speaker.

I've come across many examples, Mr. Speaker, where both in cases that are large but also with smaller companies, Mr. Speaker, the challenge of them not getting paid. I would recognize that there's a real challenge for some of the smaller companies, Mr. Speaker, sometimes owner-operated types of companies where the owner is working the tools as well, Mr. Speaker. They are very small companies, Mr. Speaker, at times, and don't have, you know, the ability to invest in legal advice, Mr. Speaker, unless they really have to.

[14:45]

They're small operations often from an accounting perspective as well, and they're really burdened when they're not paid. And I know the example of some builders in our community right now and some companies that are over 100 days, Mr. Speaker, without being paid. So certainly this isn't acceptable and we need to find a solution, and this bill holds out some promise. Certainly the construction association should be commended for their work on this front.

But it's important we get this right. And I know we are hearing some concerns, particularly with respect to a provision within this bill, Mr. Speaker, that's unlike legislation for example in Ontario or other places where the minister has the authority to . . . or has the discretion as to who this legislation applies to, picking winners and losers if you will, Mr. Speaker.

And I think we have a lot of questions for the minister on this front as to how that's appropriate and the slippery slope that that could create and the different sets of rules that that may provide for, in some cases, the same company, Mr. Speaker. Because it depends on whether they're involved in the residential sector or the commercial sector or the industrial sector, Mr. Speaker.

So we're going to be bringing those concerns forward. I know, or I hope government's hearing that as well from leadership in the construction sector that this is an area that needs to likely be changed in this bill or amended in this bill. This bill also was modelled after legislation in Ontario I understand, Mr. Speaker. They're just enacting that legislation, or it's simply coming into force right now, Mr. Speaker. So there's something to be said that there's maybe some lessons to be learned out of their experience, and we should be looking for those lessons to make sure we build legislation that's as effective as it can be and that there's not a set of unintended consequences set up on this front, Mr. Speaker.

I know there's been a discussion around whether projects should be bonded. Because it's been presented to me that, you know, certainly you can say what you want about the payment needing to be prompt, but if there's not money there then it's hard for those dollars to flow, so sort of the notion of payment certainty. And I know there's been a conversation and a push around whether or not public projects should require bonding for example, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that if a company runs into hardship or goes under, Mr. Speaker, that there'll be dollars there and assured to all the subtrades down the line, Mr. Speaker.

I've heard as well some concerns out of the residential sector, Mr. Speaker, and concerns around current cash flow realities on this front, Mr. Speaker, and how this bill may impact businesses within the community. And I think we should be sensitive to that and make sure that this legislation is as effective as it can be, ensuring that we can hold up the principal and advance the principal and make sure that businesses are paid promptly and that there is certainty to that payment while not creating a set of unintended consequences.

These questions I have and the recommendations and the thoughts of many throughout the economy should be certainly heard by this government, and there's a place for them at the committee. And that's where I'll take my questions on this front, is to the committee. So at this point in time I have no further questions or comment with respect to Bill 152, the builders' lien amendment Act, 2018.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 152 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill 152, *The Builders' Lien (Prompt Payment) Amendment Act, 2018* be committed to

the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Bill No. 165

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 165 — *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter in briefly with respect to Bill No. 165, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2018*, Mr. Speaker. And there's some important improvements brought forward in this bill that are hard-fought victories, Mr. Speaker, by many. And I want to recognize the Saskatchewan Professional Fire Fighters, Mr. Speaker, on this front and, of course, thank them for the service that they provide as they serve and protect in communities across the province, but a recognition of the risk that they present to themselves in the fulfillment of their duty for the benefit of all of us, Mr. Speaker. And some of the changes that have been brought forward with the expanded lists of occupational diseases are very, very important.

And I want to thank the Professional Fire Fighters for their leadership and their voice — at times, I know, their patience — Mr. Speaker, because they've been making a solid case for many years, as we have, Mr. Speaker, stood shoulder to shoulder with the firefighters to make these calls for expanded coverage, Mr. Speaker. And there's more that we need to advance yet on this front. But I want to thank them for their clear voices and their leadership, of course, in the community. But also when I think of the Professional Fire Fighters Association and their representatives across the province, I thank them for their leadership for their fellow members, for their colleagues, Mr. Speaker, for firefighters across our province.

When we're looking at legislation like this, I think of all those — such as the emergency responders and the firefighters and the police and those involved in our armed forces, Mr. Speaker, and the member for Saskatoon Riversdale — who pushed for so long, successfully, to include coverage for PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder] within Workers' Compensation.

This is a very important measure that was brought forward. I think we have to continue to track how it's being implemented, Mr. Speaker. I know I'm hearing some really challenging stories, Mr. Speaker, where those on the . . . And this should apply to all workers, of course, Mr. Speaker, but in the cases that I'm thinking of, those that are on the front lines of service, Mr. Speaker — and using police as an example, Mr. Speaker — who have gone through terrible injury, Mr. Speaker, and suffering of mental health injuries, PTSD, Mr. Speaker, as a result of their traumatic, terrible experience, Mr. Speaker, where they're not getting the coverage that they deserve.

So it's very important that we continue to track that not only are the laws changed, Mr. Speaker, but the implementation is

successful and that how those laws are being applied are fair, to make sure that we're not leaving some of the most vulnerable, Mr. Speaker, suffering without the very coverage and supports that we've been so passionate about advocating for.

And I would just identify as an additional point here, Mr. Speaker, that this is a time that we should be doing all we can to improve workplace safety, Mr. Speaker. The number of fatalities across Saskatchewan are not acceptable to anyone, Mr. Speaker. There should be no one questioning as they go out the door, whether that's in the morning or at night, for whatever shift or duty they're taking on, in whatever part of our economy or whatever workplace, Mr. Speaker, there should be no question that they're returning back to their home and their loved ones, Mr. Speaker.

And the sad reality is we lose far too many people on the job, Mr. Speaker, workers who are killed on the job, stolen from their families, from their loved ones, Mr. Speaker. And the numbers have really been on the rise, Mr. Speaker, and we owe it to the people of this province to step up with supports and actions to make sure that we make our workplaces safe and that we recognize that one death is too many, Mr. Speaker.

And I'd argue that it's important when you're doing that kind of work that it's an all-hands-on-deck effort, Mr. Speaker, and certainly I can speak for the official opposition. That's the approach that we'll bring to this. We'll be as constructive as we can be to build good legislation and protect workers. And I know we need all the partners across the province to be all-hands-on-deck as well, and I'm thankful for SFL [Saskatchewan Federation of Labour] Lori Johb's offer to fully work in tandem and work together with the government. As the Federation of Labour, Mr. Speaker, that's very important. And of course we need employers and many others involved as well.

So I would see this legislation right here as an opportunity to still improve it by including changes to address workplace safety. But certainly it's important legislation that's been hard fought for by folks like the firefighters, Mr. Speaker, who were very proud to have stood shoulder to shoulder for many years, pushing for the changes that they need and deserve.

With that being said, Mr. Speaker, I'll adjourn debate with respect to Bill No. 165, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2018*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 165. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 157

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Harrison that **Bill No. 157 — *The Education Amendment Act, 2018/Loi modificative de 2018 sur l'éducation*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into adjourned debates today on Bill No. 157, *The Education Amendment Act* of 2018. I'm going to be brief, Mr. Speaker, but there are some things that I would like to get on the record here with this particular bill.

I think any time we hear the Sask Party government talking about education and amending *The Education Act*, it warrants some caution and some careful scrutiny. We know that this is an underfunded and under-supported sector of Saskatchewan right now. They have seen so many cuts over the past number of years, in particular since 2017, Mr. Speaker, where they're still trying to catch up. And the funding hasn't even come close to keeping pace with pressures of population and cost pressures as well. So there's a number of concerns that this sector still has.

We've seen the per-student funding decrease by hundreds of dollars, Mr. Speaker. We know that it's hard to compare per-student funding between provinces, but we can compare it to what we've been able to do in our province in the past. And there are some challenges I know between provinces, because when we talk about things like how much school buses cost to get kids to school, it can be hard to relate because geography looks different.

But what we can compare, Mr. Speaker, is our own per-student funding to ourselves. And what we have seen by doing that is that there is a tremendous gap in this sector in terms of what is required and what is being put forward. I'm not sure where the disconnect exists for this government, but they fail to see that front-end and upstream investments make a significant impact down the road, can lead to a healthier economy, can lead to a healthier population and a better Saskatchewan for all of us, Mr. Speaker. So when we see the cuts to early childhood education, K through 12, post-secondary, you know, these sectors are areas we should be investing, not areas we should see as line items we should take a big red pen to when it comes budget time, Mr. Speaker.

So any time we look at this, any Act that deals with this sector, those are some important considerations that we need to keep in mind. Because we know that a number of relationships have been damaged across this province and that that government has a lot of work to do to build those relationships back up. And it starts with prioritizing folks in the sector.

Mr. Speaker, when the minister was providing a second reading speech here, he identified that several amendments were being made that are "... housekeeping in nature and are required to reflect current drafting and terminology standards, changes to other Acts, and recommendations from the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Education."

So what some of these changes are being proposed are correcting and changing the terminology in both English and French versions of the Act; exempting the city of Lloyd from paying proceeds of the school tax received to the government, as the city of Lloyd pays boards of education directly; changing the clause on the acquisition of personal property by a board of education to clarify that boards of education have the authority to manage

their own personal property; and changing the clause on the disposal of real and personal property by a board of education.

[15:00]

So we know that this is an important piece of legislation and any changes need to be closely scrutinized. We are going to be doing that, Mr. Speaker, and I know more of my colleagues will have more to say in terms of their thoughts on this legislative change. And we'll certainly have more to discuss when it goes to committee.

But with that I will move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 154, *The Education Amendment Act, 2018*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 157. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 158

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 158** — *The Youth Justice Administration Act, 2018* be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Prince Albert Northcote.

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's always a pleasure to join in with regards to adjourned debates, and today I get the pleasure to put my remarks on the record for Bill No. 158, *The Youth Justice Administration Act*.

Mr. Speaker, prior to being elected . . . I've often talked about my experience of working at mental health. But for the last four years of working at mental health I had what I declared to be my dream job, which was working with incarcerated youth. This is another dream job, but sometimes it keeps me up at night with this job. So working with incarcerated youth was very challenging but extremely rewarding, and so I really enjoyed my time doing that work. But it also really made me aware of a lot of challenges that we have with regards to our youth justice system and a lot of areas of improvement that we need to make with regards to incarcerated youth in our province.

This particular piece of legislation has been of interest to me. And I reviewed it and, although I am happy to see that the government is looking at reviewing the legislation for youth that are incarcerated, I am really troubled with the fact that a lot of the language within this piece of legislation relies on discipline and appeals and not necessarily the rehabilitation factor of youth, incarcerated youth.

Mr. Speaker, we know that youth that tend to get to the point of offending and becoming incarcerated oftentimes have a history of trauma. Childhood trauma has long-lasting effects on youth, and if we don't make an effort to try to work with regards to that trauma, we're not doing any service to these youth or helping them through this process. I always said that this was a great

opportunity that we had with these youth, to have them in these locations where we could put a lot of rehabilitation programming into the facilities. But we don't, Mr. Speaker, and it's a lost opportunity, I believe.

While I was reading this piece of legislation, it made me start thinking about the closure of the North Battleford facility. We know that because of new mental health hospital in North Battleford which definitely was needed and is a great asset for our province, the facility, the youth facility was connected to that building and that building is no longer viable to have these services in. And so my understanding, and I could be corrected, but my understanding was to close that facility and house the youth that are especially in closed custody — I believe they have remand and closed custody there — to have them in facilities in other areas of the province.

But my understanding is that this will mean that there's no closed facility north of Saskatoon, which really concerns me because we have a lot of youth that are in our facilities that their home communities are north of Saskatoon. And the further that we keep youth away from their families — although I know the justice system does try to work on connecting them with family — it just makes it a lot harder for families to stay connected. And youth really require to have their family. Even though they like to deny that their family is a necessity in those teenage years, it is a time that they do need their family around.

So in Prince Albert we have a remand centre in an open facility. And the beds, I believe, are for the most part full because a lot of individuals choose to stay in the Prince Albert area so that they could be close to family. But I think we are a prime location, an obvious location if we're going to build a new closed facility. And so I'll put that plug here. And I know I've looked at land near the facility that we have, and that would be definitely welcomed by the community to have a facility in that location. And then it would be great if we could make that a facility that really focused on rehabilitation.

So I wanted to draw some attention to the remarks that the minister made when presenting this bill. He said, "The long-term reduction of youth offending occurs when youth are held accountable through a balance of meaningful consequences and rehabilitation." Mr. Speaker, I agree with the minister with regards to that statement. But like I said, within this piece of legislation there really isn't a lot of talk about rehabilitation. And so I think this was a missed opportunity.

I'll point to some of the things that are discussed with this piece of legislation. There's a lot of language with more comprehensive piece of legislation to govern the youth custody facilities in our province. They talk about how searches are conducted for youth workers, visitors, family, and the discipline process, how that will look and be more structured.

They also talk about the appeal process for youth which is an important process. But they increase the ability for youth to appeal if they requested transfer and it was denied. Or any of their losses of privileges, they can appeal.

It also talks about . . . It defines "secluded room time" and how long a youth can be kept separate from the other youth in the facility. We know that's been a big topic federally with regards

to seclusion in facilities, and how that oftentimes people who have extreme mental health issues end up in the secluded areas due to their behaviour. But then being secluded increases your mental health issues because obviously when you don't have a lot of contact with other individuals that makes a person feel really isolated and increases their mental health issues.

Youth will have an increased right to consult with legal counsel and the Children's Advocate, and support for completing written submissions. I think this is also a really important aspect. And there'll be limits for physical force or restraining. So this is really good, nice, and hopefully youth will have the opportunity to know that this is available to them, and then they can know where their rights are.

So when we talk about incarcerated youth, it's a challenging demographic also because they could be from the ages of 12, 13, to 18, and as we know with developmental . . . developmentally, that's a big difference, age difference. And so the older youth oftentimes by that point know their rights; the younger youth might not. Or they might have some other challenges with regards to language barriers. That was an issue when I was providing counselling to these youth, was that English was not their first language. And so oftentimes a lot of the resources that we have are in English, and so that was a challenge to be able to provide that service with having that language barrier.

And I think that also important to note that Aboriginal youth in custody are overrepresented in this province. In 2016-17 they indicate that 92 per cent of males, youth males that were incarcerated were Aboriginal, and for females, it was 98 per cent. So that's definitely a high number, and we have to figure out what we can do to reduce Aboriginal youth in custody. Because we know that with representation in our province, they're not overly represented in our province but then they're overrepresented in our youth facility centres. So that's definitely deeply concerning, Mr. Speaker.

So I think it's a really good opportunity with this piece of legislation coming forward to talk a little bit about what's the government's plan to reducing youth crime and addressing the social issues that lead youth to commit crimes. It's also a great opportunity to talk about what's the government's plan on increasing rehabilitation within centres and helping youth become more successful when they're released and some of the challenges that they have with being released with the ability to maintain employment or stay in school.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know I have colleagues that will have a lot more that they'll want to add with regards to discussion with this bill. And I know the critic that will be presenting our points at committee will do her due diligence, will speak to stakeholders, and will have a lot of information and questions to ask the minister in committee. So at this point, I'm going to adjourn debate on Bill No. 158.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 158. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 160

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 160 — *The Trespass to Property Amendments Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure and privilege to wade into the debate today on Bill No. 160, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2018*. Often doing these second reading speeches, Mr. Speaker, I always say that it's important to look at the minister's comments or his own speech or her own speech when it comes to the government's position or what they're hoping a particular bill will do. And so I'd just like to draw your attention to the minister's second reading speech where he's explaining why the bill is before us, and he says, ". . . the government was encouraged to review existing rural trespass legislation in response to increasing concerns regarding crime, property damage, and biosecurity." They are hopeful that this legislation would be a step forward in addressing these concerns. So that gives us a sense of where the government is coming. They are putting forward this particular bill, they say, to address crime, property damage, and biosecurity.

[15:15]

And admittedly, Mr. Speaker, I'm a city kid, born and raised in Saskatoon. I live across the street from where I've grown up. So I am a city kid, but I'm always eager and interested in learning about what life looks like for people outside of Saskatoon and across this province.

And that's part of our job as MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly], not just to be MLAs for our constituency but for the whole of the province. But just putting that on the record that I also am not a hunter or a fisher person. But actually after listening to my colleague's really lovely speech, and, I think, an important speech on this topic yesterday, I've had an offer from my colleague from Regina Rosemont to take myself and my daughter out hunting. He has a true connection to this land and has done a lot of the government's due diligence, which they should've been doing, Mr. Speaker, through his connections with many, many people across the province.

One of the things that I think is very important when you're putting a piece of legislation forward, it's always good to review existing legislation and see where we're at and what can be changed or what needs to be amended. And a big part of that review and that process is to consult people who are impacted by that legislation or will be impacted. And the consultation isn't just writing legislation and then talking to people on the day that the bill will be introduced. Consulting should be real and meaningful and connecting with people who will be impacted, in a way where they may have an opportunity to put forward . . . not they may, but where they will have an opportunity to be heard and share their concerns about consequences and unintended consequences.

And from my understanding, Mr. Speaker, with respect to this particular bill, we think about the original hunters and fishers on

this land, indigenous people. And there was very little consultation done with our leaders here in this, with indigenous leaders here in this province to get their perspective, Mr. Speaker.

I also understand too that farmers and landowners who are very much impacted need to be consulted as well, and their voices and their rights need to be protected as well. So that's one piece of the puzzle, but making sure that we've connected with everybody who will be impacted. The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, I understand, was kept completely out of the loop. So people who have been using this land respectfully should have been part of that process, Mr. Speaker.

It was interesting in my colleague's speech, my colleague from Regina Rosemont yesterday. As I'm not a hunter . . . My father actually was an avid hunter, but never passed that down to his daughters anyway. That wasn't something I ever did growing up. But it was interesting hearing the member from Rosemont's comments around how hunting really is very different here in Canada compared to other parts of the world. Where in the US [United States] it's a very much a pay to play, or pay to access land, or how hunting was the domain of the elite people who have money in places like the US, or looking in places like Europe as well, Mr. Speaker. And from my understanding that's not at all how things were designed here in Saskatchewan.

But if you're putting forward a bill, and a bill that rightfully so needs to be debated and discussed to make sure that landowners are feeling safe and secure and respected, and all parties have an opportunity to put forward their concerns. If you put forward a bill it should address the problems that you're hoping it will address. And the minister in his very own comments said this was about regarding crime and property damage. That is part of the reason this bill is before us.

I need you, Mr. Speaker, to reflect back on about the last six years where crystal meth or methamphetamine has been an increasing challenge here in Saskatchewan, not just in urban areas. I can point to urban areas for sure, just looking at stats from Saskatoon that I just got on Friday night that are very Saskatoon specific.

But in 2012 there were 19 methamphetamine possession and trafficking occurrences, and over the course of the last seven years we've now reached in Saskatoon, 457 methamphetamine possession and trafficking occurrences in 2018. You talk to law enforcement from across this province, from all corners of the province. They will tell you that crystal meth is driving the drastic jump in all manners of crime: property crime, violent crime, gun possession.

So gun crimes, deaths from vehicles, thefts of vehicles, all those stats have ticked up since that time because we have a government who had put its head in the sand when it came to crystal meth and drug use. And it's really allowed gang activity around this to flourish and is a big part of the problem of why we are experiencing increased crime, not only in our urban centres but in our rural areas as well. You only need to talk to any law enforcement officer from across the province who will tell you that very same thing.

So as the mental health and addictions critic, I believe that we have missed an opportunity here. And the time is now, Mr. Speaker. If we want to address rural crime, you need to get to the

root of the crime. You need to talk about poverty, the cycle of trauma. My colleague in the previous bill was just talking about youth and trauma and eventual incarceration and how those things are very much linked, Mr. Speaker.

We have a government here who just this past budget finally made some investments in mental health and addictions. Very welcome investment, but I would say a day late and a dollar short, Mr. Speaker. When you have 0.18 per cent of the health budget, less than \$10 million, on new mental health initiatives, that is not adequate to address our growing addictions crisis here in the province.

Yes, it will help. Yes, more treatment beds will help. I'm very much looking forward to how the rapid access addictions clinics will roll out. There are good things that have been announced in this budget that will improve the state of this province when it comes to mental health and addictions, but again this is a government who is late to the party. Again you only need to take a look at crime statistics going back to 2012 or 2013 and to see them all ticking up.

So we have a bill before us, Bill No. 160, that is meant to address some of those concerns, rural crime. And this government has missed the mark for the last several years when they did have more resources to really meaningfully invest in better supports for people with mental health and addictions issues, Mr. Speaker.

So again I think my big criticism of this bill is that the onus is on the government and, when government brings forward legislation, to make sure that those impacted by legislation, all parties, are meaningfully and properly consulted. I know that landowners very much have real concerns and those shouldn't be diminished at all, but we need to make sure that we get the right balance. And if there are possible ways of ensuring we are maintaining access to the land by traditional hunters and fishers and people, as my colleague referred to them, as heritage industries, Mr. Speaker, people who have been accessing that land for thousands and thousands of years to ensure that that can continue, that we make sure that the right balance is in place to help people feel secure in their home.

But I would argue also that coupled with getting this legislation right, which many people don't think that is the case, but coupled with getting this legislation right is a real investment in mental health and addictions. And it's a shame that this government is taking its sweet time to get there, Mr. Speaker, and we still have so far to go. We are playing catch-up with other places across this country who are moving the bar. We are chasing that bar instead of being leaders in this area, Mr. Speaker.

But with that, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 160, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2018*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 160.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 161

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 161 — *The Trespass to Property Consequential Amendments Act, 2018/Loi de 2018 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Bill No. 161, *The Trespass to Property Consequential Amendments Act, 2018* is a companion bill to Bill 160 to which I just spoke. So my comments remain the same: that investment in mental health and addictions to get ahead of this methamphetamine crisis that we do have in this province, that is not hyperbole. I read into the record last week a quote from a Saskatoon police officer who used those very words, Mr. Speaker.

We have bills before us. This particular bill sets out that “. . . no person shall hunt any wildlife on any land except with the consent of the owner or occupant of the land.” Again when a government puts forward a bill or changes a bill, those impacted by that legislation should be properly consulted, not on the day when a bill is being introduced in the House, but long before it ever gets there, to make sure that we’re addressing unintended consequences, that there’s no surprises for folks, that they have had their say and had their opportunity to say how legislation will impact them, but also put forward proactive, positive ways.

Sometimes if we get into our little box of thinking, we don’t always know what we don’t know, Mr. Speaker. So making sure you’ve got lots of people around the table to provide input who have lived experience in an area is incredibly valuable.

Again too, I just want to put on the record that there are people who have felt incredibly left out of this conversation, including indigenous peoples in this province. And other organizations like the wildlife federation of Saskatchewan probably could have helped come up with some better ways of ensuring we protect property owners’ or landowners’ rights and people’s access to public game and making sure that people . . . a balance between keeping people safe and secure and still allowing for these heritage industries to prosper, the heritage industries that keep money in people’s pockets so they can keep food on their families’ tables, Mr. Speaker.

But with that, I know when my colleague gets to committee, she will have many, many questions about both Bill 160 and Bill 161. But at the moment I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 161. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 136

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed

motion by the Hon. Mr. Harrison that **Bill No. 136 — *The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m happy to rise this afternoon and enter into the debate around Bill No. 136, *The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Act*.

Mr. Speaker, this bill repeals and replaces *The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Act, 1999*. It’s a new bill that is going to regulate the apprenticeship system as well as outlining the procedures for the training of apprentices, journeypersons, and tradespersons. It’s also going to add a few new categories, two specifically that were not included for mandatory training in the previous bill, and sets out the mandate, purpose, and responsibilities of the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission. It’s also going to establish that the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission has the authority to implement the designation of occupations and subtrades in Saskatchewan as well, Mr. Speaker. It’s going to introduce mandatory certification trade and a certification-only trade, and introduce some additional measures to enforce the previous regulations for employers who do not comply.

There is some interesting questions, I think, that this bill leaves that I know that the critic is going to be having a full discussion with the officials at committee and the minister at committee. Some of the questions include what the official registration looks like and to whom is that registration going to be made available, and also how this legislation will enforce this compulsory apprenticeship trade, how that’s going to work with industry and with public demand, Mr. Speaker.

There’s also some questions around what sort of impact this bill will have on skilled tradespeople in Saskatchewan. We know that some of the decisions that the Sask Party has made with respect to in particular the PST expansion onto construction has had some very serious impacts in our construction industry in the province. And that in turn has slowed down the economy and the trade work in this province in particular, so it’s important to ensure that the changes in this bill here are protecting the public and protecting the workers, but are also not doing anything that would result in less demand for apprentices and journeypersons, Mr. Speaker.

[15:30]

I know that the critic will be and has been reaching out to those who work in the industry as well as other stakeholders who are interested in this legislation, and that’s some good work that’s being done behind the scenes, Mr. Speaker. I know I have other colleagues who are going to enter into the debate around this bill, so at this point I am prepared to adjourn debate on Bill No. 136.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 136. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 139

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 139 — *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Prince Albert Northcote.

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again it's an honour to stand here and add my remarks with regards to adjourned debates. And today I'll be talking a little bit about Bill No. 139, *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Amendment Act*.

I think it's very important that we continuously review pieces of legislation. And we know that oftentimes our foreign workers are some of the most vulnerable work sector within our province, because they come from sometimes some countries that might not have the type of employment Acts that we do that ensure safety for employees, and so they may not be aware of their rights within the province. And I know I've heard of some stories, and I'm sure many members in this Chamber have heard stories of some people who maybe misuse the foreign workers because they may feel that in order to be able to make some money, because they come from some of the most poverty-stricken countries as well, that they feel that they have to do things that within our province isn't appropriate for workers.

So I think it's really important that we ensure that we have policies and procedures in place that when the workers are coming into our province that they're treated no less than any other worker, any other resident of this province, and that their safety is considered. And they should have to abide by certain hours of work and conditions of work as well, and living conditions too if that's a requirement of their employment.

So there's a lot of questions, I would think, that are going to be had within committee with regards to what kind of inspections are done, investigations, and how this particular Act is enforced. And then what are the procedures on hearings and appeals, what industries are more so being utilized by hiring foreign workers, and where do a lot of these concerns come from? There'll be a lot of focus on the violations of the Act by the employer or the foreign workers, and what kind would that be and what's been the history.

We also want to know probably a little bit more about the transparency of the recruitment process of foreign workers. And I know when I've been doing some research in regards to the new legislation that's coming forward with truck driving legislation, some of the questions I already had asked the minister, and plan to later on, is with regards to foreign workers. If they're working on farms, and we know that farms are going to have a different requirement for receiving their licences, if foreign workers fall under that piece of regulation. Or what kind of . . . If foreign workers are coming here with previous experience, how is that going to be taken into account to what our requirements are in this province, because we might have a different programming and different requirements to be able to do certain jobs.

So we know that in the past there's been some questionable recruitment and methods, so we want to make sure that there is a more transparent process. And again, what is being done to enforce the regulations of foreign workers, especially employed in the seasonal agricultural worker program in the province? And what's being done to improve the knowledge that foreign workers have with regards to their rights and the awareness about protections that they have within our province?

So, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the critic will talk to stakeholders and ensure that they have the information that they need when this legislation goes to committee. And I know they'll have a lot of questions. And I'm sure there is other colleagues here that would like to put their remarks on the record. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to adjourn debate on Bill No. 139, *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Amendment Act*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 139. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, so the committees may sit tonight, I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that this Assembly do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This Assembly now stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:37.]

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